



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Bike to Work

May 9 – 16 is “Bike to Work” week and a variety of bike-related activities are planned around the state including Sheboygan, La Crosse, the Fox Cities, Milwaukee and Madison. For an increasing number of Wisconsinites, nearly every week is “Bike to Work” week. Currently, about 5% of commuters bike to work during peak months. More information about “Bike to Work” week activities and how WisDOT partners with communities to plan and construct bike-related facilities can be found at:

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/modes/bicycles.htm.

Traffic fatalities continue downward trend

Preliminary data shows 37 people lost their lives in Wisconsin traffic crashes last month, the second safest month of April in terms of traffic deaths since World War II. That compares to the 63 people who died in April of last year, and April's five-year average of 59 traffic deaths. While overall fatalities are down, highway safety officials caution that the traditionally high fatal-traffic-crash months are still coming up. Motorcycle crashes are a special concern this time of year. Governor Jim Doyle has designated May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in Wisconsin to encourage motorcyclists and other motorists to watch out for each other.

Volunteer crews preserve the views

Just like spring flowers, Adopt-A-Highway crews are a common sight along state highways this time of year. Wisconsin is fortunate to have about 3,000 registered Adopt-a-Highway groups that clean up their designated two-mile stretch of state roadway at least three times per year. Motorists are being asked to keep an eye out for Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who collected about 25,000 bags of trash and 2,700 bags of recycleables in Wisconsin last year. More information about the program and how to join can be found at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/adopt-a-highway.htm.

Milwaukee Intermodal Station shines

A southeast Wisconsin publication is honoring the downtown Milwaukee Intermodal Station. The Milwaukee Business Journal bestowed its highest “Project of the Year” award to the newly-remodeled downtown station that accommodates Amtrak and Greyhound bus service along with WisDOT's Statewide Traffic Operations Center. The Business Journal's Real Estate Awards honored 24 improvement projects that “enhance the area's character and appeal.” WisDOT purchased the 35-year-old train station in the year 2000 and worked with the city of Milwaukee, state and federal officials and Milwaukee Intermodal Partners to transform it into a modern multi-modal facility (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/amtrak-term.htm).

Helping municipalities stay connected

WisDOT's “Programs for Local Government” Web site (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/) is a one-stop-shop that can help municipalities learn more about programs to benefit roads, bridges, railroads, public transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and more. Along with explaining the application process for various programs, the site includes telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to contact appropriate WisDOT staff for more information.

The WisDOT Connector Express is produced by:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Office of Public Affairs, PO Box 7910

Madison, WI 53707-7910

Phone: (608) 266-3581

E-mail: opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us

Web site: www.dot.wisconsin.gov

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